



How Fast? Turnaround Times

All turnaround times are measured **from specimen receipt** in the laboratory (LAB-QM-POST-003 §5.2).

INFOGRAPHIC IG-12
Source: LAB-QM-POST-003
Version V0 — DRAFT

STAT

≤ 1 hour

Generally within 1 hour of receipt. For a critical clinical situation, this may be shortened to **≤ 30 minutes** — the requesting physician must **telephone the laboratory first**, before sending the specimen (§5.3.5).

ROUTINE

3–4 hours

Most Chemistry and Hematology testing is performed the day the specimen is received; analysis, review, verification and acceptance are typically available within **3–4 hours of receipt**.

SEND-OUT

3–7 days

Typical range for referred tests; the actual time depends on the referral laboratory (LAB-QM-PRE-002). Rare or esoteric tests take longer.

WHO IS STAT BY DEFAULT — §5.3.1

- **Emergency Room** — all laboratory investigations are STAT by default, unless otherwise instructed.
- **Medical · OB · Pediatrics · Isolation · ITC** — routine by default; STAT only when the physician specifically orders it STAT.
- A test that is not on the controlled **STAT Test List** needs CMT (or designee) approval before it is run as STAT (§5.3.2).

MARK IT STAT — §5.3.3

- Ordered by a physician or authorized designee and clearly identified on the request form.
- Affix a **STAT** coloured sticker (e.g. red) to the sample, or write “STAT” legibly in highlighter/marker — positioned so it does not cover the barcode or required information.

WHEN THE STAT RESULT IS READY — §5.3.4

- The requesting unit is **notified by telephone**; the call (date, time, person notified) is documented on the Technical Delay & TAT Monitoring Log (F-QM-POST-003-A-V0).
- If the result is also a **critical value**, it is handled under LAB-QM-POST-002 as well.